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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 VO-03 PPT-01 SCA-01 CU-02 IO-11

CPR-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 BIB-01 /062 W
---------- 058144
P R 091500Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2213
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5414

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA, VO, AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CGEN, CVIS, GE, US
SUBJECT: MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR GDR JOURNALISTS ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED STATES AND VICE VERSA
REF: A) 75 BERLIN 6875; B) DEPT OM, CVIS: RECIPROCITY GDR, MARCH 1, 1976 (NOTAL), C) 75 BERLIN 6182

1. REF. (B) ADVISED EMBASSY AND USMISSION BERLIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS AMENDING 9 FAM, APPENDIX C, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, TO PROVIDE FOR MULTIPLE ENTRY 12 MONTH I NIVS FOR "CORRESPONDENTS ASSIGNED TO AND

TO BE RESIDENT IN THE U.S. AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES...". OTHER CORRESPONDENTS ARE TO BE ISSUED I NIVS VALID FOR THREE MONTHS AND ONE ENTRY. FEES FOR BOTH TYPES OF VISAS ARE $8.50. THE RATIONALE ON WHICH IT IS STATED THAT THESE CHANGES ARE BASED ARE RECENT CHANGES TOWARD RECIPROCITY BY THE GDR AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GDR CHARGES CORRESPONDENTS $8.50 FOR MULTIPLE ENTRY 12 MONTH VISAS.

2. EMBASSY AGREES STRONGLY WITH THE VIEW THAT RECIPROCITY SHOULD
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BE THE BASIS FOR STEPS OF THIS CHARACTER. WE HAVE NOT, HOWEVER,

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SEEN SUCH RECIPROCAL STEPS BY THE GDR. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE FACTS CONCERNING CORRESPONDENT'S VISAS AND ACCREDITATION ARE:

A. ASIDE FROM TWO CORRESPONDENTS FOR THE DAILY WORLD, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH US, THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY US JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE BEEN VISAED OR ACCREDITED BY THE GDR TO WORK HERE.

B. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF APPLICATIONS BY ANY US MEDIA ENTITY FOR ACCREDITATION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS CHOOSING BEING MADE TO OR APPROVED BY THE GDR.

C. THE GDR CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO ACCREDIT REPRESENTATIVES OF US MEDIA ENTITIES, PRESENTLY ACCREDITED TO EITHER THE FRG OR WEST BERLIN.THE US PLACES NO RESTRICTIONS OF THAT CHARACTER ON GDR JOURNALIST ACCREDITATION.

3. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUANCE OF 12 MONTH MULTIPLE ENTRY I NIVS TO GDR JOURNALISTS ACCREDITED TO THE US SHOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE GDR, IN FACT, ACCREDITS US CORRESPONDENTS AND ISSUES SIMILAR VISAS. FURTHER, THE REFUSAL OF THE GDR TO ACCREDIT ANY US JOURNALIST NOMINATED BY US MEDIA IS DISCRIMINATORY AND NON-RECIPROCAL BEHAVIOUR, WHICH ALSO CLASHES WITH THE COMMITMENTS ARTICULATED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. AS LONG AS THE US MEDIA HAVE NOT INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE IN TO GDR DEMANDS CONCERNING ACCREDITATION, WE BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD LIKEWISE NOT YIELD.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE AMENDMENT OF 9 FAM, APPENDIX C, AS INDICATED IN REF. (B), IS PREMATURE. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE AMENDMENT BE WITHHELD AND THAT COORDINATION TO RECONSIDER THIS MATTER BE RE-INITIATED WHEN AND IF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT SUCH A REGULATORY CHANGE IS WARRANTED ON THE FACTS. COOPER

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